

Eleanor Mae Cramer: But then everything ... it was such a horrid thing that we were going through—not knowing and worrying and wondering, but when it ended it was, oh, it was just like heaven on earth. It was such a strange ... because every day you'd look at the mail, you'd wonder. Then you'd hear about these letters that you'd get that [someone had been] killed or died or something, from the government. And you'd pray that you didn't get one of those.

Janis Kozlowski: Right.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: It was an emotional time, very emotional.

Janis Kozlowski: Do you have any other memories of that time period either at the Lockheed plant or just about living, in general, that come to mind?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: No, just how strict they were about our going in and coming out, what we had in our purse and everything and what you could do, what you couldn't do. You couldn't ... I couldn't go ... in fact I was sent down on secretive things where I couldn't talk about it, couldn't tell anyone what I was doing. You just didn't discuss it, you couldn't. I don't know ... you know, to me....

I was put in charge of the getting the equipment for the chem. Lab. They'd send me down to the tool shop downstairs and they had a lot of fun, though, there [laughing]. They had this terrible thing about a female plug and a male plug and it had to do with the measurements of the piping and stuff. And a female nipple, that's what they were using on the end of the things and I wanted a female nipple for this or that [laughing]. I mean, the terms and things, that's what they were called, you know. I'd say, I need a female nipple from them [laughing]. It became ... it could have been, it was ... it's funny now, at the time it was embarrassing to me, but ... because we didn't talk about nipples and things like that.

Janis Kozlowski: Right. It was kind of ... the plant was set up originally for men and using male terms, probably, right?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, yes, yes. There weren't very many women where I was. In fact, I don't remember any except me.

Janis Kozlowski: Did they even have women's bathrooms in there? Or did they have to put those in?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: No, they just had ... they weren't separate bathrooms as I remember. I just remember just the toilet. I don't remember them saying "ladies" and "mens." If they did have them I don't remember that. I think they were just regular bathrooms. But, of course, they were probably separate, I don't remember that, but I think they probably were.

Janis Kozlowski: Because those plants were probably very male dominated before the war so they probably weren't set up for that at all.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: No, it was all strictly men. We were something that came in along with it all—women! [laughing] women! No, we were not the ... they were not, you know, compliant and everything, but they were not anything exceptionally wonderful. They put up with us, period. And they were glad to have our help.

I know they were ... I would be sent from second floor down to the tool shop, down the stairs to get equipment and things and they were very nice to me. But they did like to tease because I was young, I was a teenager ... not a teen, but I was young. And they'd tease me, things like, "give her a nipple, she needs it." [laughing] You know, it was funny. They did it on purpose to see if I'd blush and I would.

Janis Kozlowski: Sure. Sure.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Just to tease and it was really authentic, it was needed but they just did it to see if they could embarrass you. I remember, because I was at that age where you didn't talk about things like that.

Janis Kozlowski: Right, yeah.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Now, I'd just joke along with it. But in those days, [laughing] they'd make you blush, it made me blush. They knew it and they could ... they liked it, they did it. I remember them ... they would tease me. I got through it, but I remember it though very definitely how they liked it and they enjoyed it. And now I look back and think how funny it was.

Janis Kozlowski: That must have been kind of ... pretty eye opening for a young lady?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, it was, believe me. Things that ... we didn't talk about anything like that at home or with my Mother and Dad. It was completely, no-no. But [laughing]....